

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 GSA-01 INT-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 DODE-00 OIC-02 L-03 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /139 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0724

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ITS, CG

SUBJECT: DECEMBER ITC MEETING - ZAIRE'S TIN INDUSTRY

REF: STATE 276933

LITTLE QUANTITATIVE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FOR ZAIRE'S TIN INDUSTRY. ZAIRE HAS TWO ACTIVE TIN-PRODUCING COMPANIES, ZAIRETAIN AND SOMINKI, AND ONE, ENTERPRISES MINIERES ZAIROISES (EMZ), WHICH HAS BEEN DORMANT SINCE 1974. TIN MINING IN ZAIRE IS VERY ANTIQUATED; THERE HAS BEEN NO INVESTMENT SINCE THE 1950'S (EXAMPLE: ZAIRETAIN'S BUCYRUS-ERIE MINING EQUIPMENT WAS PURCHASED IN 1936), AND PRODUCTION HAS BEEN GENTLY DECLINING EVERY YEAR. BOTH ZAIRETAIN AND SOMINKI LOST MONEY IN 1974 AND 1975, BUT A DEVALUATION IN MARCH 1976 MAY ALLOW THEM TO BREAK THIS YEAR. THERE ARE NO STOCKS OF CONCENTRATE OR METAL. ZAIRETAIN REPORTEDLY PRODUCED 647.913 MT OF REFINED TIN IN 1975. 1976 PRODUCTION WILL FALL DRASTICALLY DUE TO A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT IN MID-1976. AT THAT TIME A DAM BROKE DUE TO CARELESS MAINTENANCE, FORCING ALL ACTIVITY TO A HALT FOR AN

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ESTIMATED SIX MONTHS. AVAILABLE (UNRELIABLE) FIGURES FOR

SOMINKI'S 1975 PRODUCTION SHOW 5,388 MT CASSITERITE, 450.8 MT
OF WOLFRAMITE, 297.5 MT MONAZITE, AND 59.9 MT COLUMBITE-
TANTALITE.
CUTLER

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